



The Weekly Beat

STATE & TRIBAL EVENTS

COURTESY OF THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS & STATE-TRIBAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

MARCH 2009

[Native American Women in Political Life](#)

March 25, 2009, 12-1 pm
Montana Historical Society

[2009 Governor's Conference on Tourism & Recreation](#)

March 30-31, 2009
Red Lion Colonial Hotel, Helena

[Empowerment Conference for Native Americans with Disabilities](#)

Free One Day Conference
April 2, 2009
Kwa Taq Nuk Resort, Polson

[MSU Native American Studies Symposium features Montana Tribal Histories](#)

April 6 & 8, 2009
Montana State University-Bozeman

[Native Fitness Training](#)

April 3 & 4, 2009
Billings Family YMCA

(Continued on page 2)

Governor Brian Schweitzer's
Office of Indian Affairs

Jennifer Cole, Coordinator
Billie Rusek, Administrative Officer
Montana State Capitol
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Helena, MT 59620-0801
(406) 444-3702

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The 61st Legislative Session

The [2009 legislative session](#) opened Monday, January 5. At www.leg.mt.gov you find full information on the 61st Legislature -- including the legislative roster, contact information and access to the LAWS database. You can use LAWS to find status and full text of bills, votes, legislator requests and much more.

To contact your legislator by phone or mail at:

SENATORS

Phone: (406) 444-4800

Fax: (406) 444-4875

PO Box 200500, Helena, MT 59620-0500

REPRESENTATIVES

Phone: (406) 444-4800

Fax: (406) 444-4825

PO Box 200400, Helena, MT 59620-0400

[LEGISLATIVE INTERNET BROADCAST](#)

Legislative proceedings and some other Capitol building meetings are live streamed. You must have RealPlayer® to watch or listen. State Employees please contact your IT Support to get a licensed copy of RealPlayer.

Meet the Montana American Indian Caucus (MAIC)



Senator
[Carol Juneau](#)
(D) SD8



Senator
[Jonathan Windy Boy](#)
(D) SD 16



Senator
[Sharon Stewart-Peregoy](#)
(D) SD 21



Representative
[Frosty Calf Boss Ribs](#)
(D) HD 15



Representative
[Shannon Augare](#)
(D) HD 16
**House
Majority Whip**



Representative
[Margaret Campbell](#)
(D) HD 31
**House
Majority Leader**



Representative
[Tony Belcourt](#)
(D) HD 32



Representative
[David Roundstone](#)
(D) HD 41



Representative
[Carolyn Pease-Lopez](#)
(D) HD42

For more information on MAIC member sponsored bills (scheduled for hearing), associated bills (sponsored/requested), committee assignments and scheduled committee hearings for MAIC members, please click on their name above.



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[Montana Indian Education Association Annual Conference](#)

April 16-19, 2009
Red Lion Colonial Inn, Helena

[2009 MT Indian Business Conference](#)

April 20 & 21, 2009
Hilton Garden Inn, Missoula

[Native Women's Journey to Wellness 2nd Annual Regional Conference](#)

May 1, 2009
Holiday Inn, Great Falls

["Montana and Canada: Reaching Across the 49th Parallel"](#)

May 13, 2009 (evening only) &
May 14, 2009 (8am - 4pm)
Great Falls, Montana
MSU College of Technology

[Montana Comprehensive Cancer Control Program Spring Statewide Meeting](#)

May 21, 2009, 8 am - 5 pm
Hilton Garden Inn, Great Falls

[National Folk Festival](#)

July 10-12, 2009
Butte, Montana

To advertise your event, meeting or conference, please contact Billie Rusek at brusek@mt.gov.

Deadline for Native American artists loom

The deadline is looming for Native American artists and crafts people who would like to show and sell their creations at the 71st National Folk Festival, July 10-12 in Butte. Applications are due March 31.

A jury will convene after the March 31 deadline and invite 19 artists to participate. All applicants will be considered by a jury that will evaluate their suitability for the festival.

This year, the jury will require that all applicants comply with the definition of "Indian" or "Indian artisan," under the Indian Arts & Crafts Act of 1990, and provide proof of this and their tribal affiliation. Those selected by the jury will be invited to participate in the First Peoples' Marketplace.



"We are emphasizing quality and work that reflects traditional skills this year," said Paul Raczka, this year's market coordinator. "We are not looking so much for artists who include Native American Indian themes in their work, but more for artists who practice in the traditional ways to create works that represent a connection to the art and craft styles of their people."

The First Peoples' Marketplace is a unique feature of the National Folk Festival in Montana. Native artists wanting to apply can find an application and guidelines to print out and mail at www.nationalfolkfestival.com/2009/getinvolved_sellfirstpeoples.php.

Native American artists can also call 406-497-6464 and request that an application and guidelines be mailed directly to them.

Montana Indian Athletic Hall of Fame Releases Website

The Montana Indian Athletic Hall of Fame has released their website. The website can be found at www.montanaindianathletichof.org/ where you can view Hall of Fame inductees, newspaper articles, and upcoming events.

The Hall is moving into its 3rd year and will be looking for nominations up to the month of October 2009. It is the creation of Don Wetzel, Sr. a former Cut Bank and University of Montana standout and coach that developed the idea to bring the past to the present, showing the youth and the native communities that they have their own legends among them by restoring their memories and accomplishments. Wetzel believes it's time to identify scores of outstanding Montana Indian athletes who haven't received their full measure of recognition.

Nomination information and donations forms will also be on the website. The Montana Indian Athletic Hall of Fame is a non-profit organization and any contributions would be greatly appreciated.

For more information, please contact Don Wetzel, Sr. at (406) 534-1223 or griz32@bresnan.net.



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Eliza Wiley Independent Record - James Steele Jr., chairman of the Montana-Wyoming Tribal Leaders Council and Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes, addresses the Legislature Tuesday.

Montana Tribes share common interest, says leader

Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribal Chairman James Steele Jr. believes the interests of Montana's Indian tribes are the same as those of other Montanans.

Steele delivered the biennial State of the Tribal Nations Address on Tuesday before a joint session of the Montana House and Senate. He said tribes are not some special interest group seeking help when it comes to writing the policies of the state.

"We are not racial groups who happen to live on a particular land base and want what other interest groups want," Steele said. "We are the successors in interest to those who signed treaties with the United States that allowed Montana to be created."

Before his speech, the House overwhelmingly endorsed a plan to designate the last Friday of September as a day to celebrate Native American heritage. The measure, which already cleared the Senate, was touted as a way to recognize the state's first residents.

Steele said relationships built on mutual respect will further the interests of the tribes and the state.

"I believe that Indian reservations are good for Montana and can, in fact, significantly aid Montana in the area of economic development," Steele said.

Rep. Carol Juneau, D-Browning, said the state and tribes are making progress on issues that impact both entities. She touted Tuesday's passage of Senate Bill 39, which extends the period of time state, federal and tribal leaders have to work out a water compact on the Flathead Reservation.

"We tried that last session and didn't get it through," Juneau said. "It's a very positive step in the relationship between Montana and the Confederated Salish-Kootenai Tribes."

The Blackfeet Water Compact, which unanimously passed in one House committee and is under consideration by the House Appropriations Committee, also is expected to pass this session.

House Majority Leader Margaret Campbell, D-Poplar, said the American Indian Caucus is working across party lines to advance important Indian issues.

"Through the establishment and development of a lot of friends on both sides of the aisle, we've been able to get some major things through," Campbell said. "We've been able to get some major water compacts through. We've been able to get Indian Country Economic Development money put back in and restored at its full level. We've done quite well."

In his address, Steele also noted that cooperative agreements between the state and the tribes can help foster development.

"This is an important time to come together," Steele said. "It's important to remind ourselves and our surrounding communities that, together, we are greater than the sum of our parts."



Chairman James Steele Jr. of the Montana/Wyoming Tribal Leaders Council and Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes greets elected and tribal officials at the March 10 State of the Tribal Nations Address. (Photo courtesy of the Governor's Office)



Eliza Wiley Independent Record - The Chief Cliff Singers perform prior to the State of the Tribal Nations Address Tuesday in the Montana House Chambers.



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Chad Trettin Independent Record - Sen. Carol Juneau, D-Browning, speaks at noon Thursday at the Rotunda during a celebration of old places with new names. Seventy-six sites in Montana that had the word 'squaw' in them have been renamed.

Old Places, New Names

American Indians, joined by whites, on Thursday celebrated the completion of a decade-long project to remove the derogatory word "squaw" from the names of 76 streams, buttes and mountains across Montana.

"We celebrate 76 old places and 76 new names," said Jennifer Perez Cole, Indian affairs coordinator for Gov. Brian Schweitzer. The governor was unable to speak at the event because he traveled to Bozeman after a natural gas explosion there.

Ch-paa-qn (or Shining Peak or Gray Colored Peak) stands tall on the horizon in Missoula and Sanders counties replacing Squaw Peak. Stands Alone Woman Peak, a rock formation in Glacier National Park, has supplanted Old Squaw. Storm Castle Creek now flows through the forested land in Gallatin County instead of Squaw Creek.

Perez Cole said Montana was the second state to undertake such an effort, following Minnesota. Others states have followed.

"This derogatory word 'squaw' was a word used by white men to describe Indian women," she said. "We sent a message in '99 that it was unacceptable."

More than 150 people gathered in the Capitol rotunda for a ceremony called "Old Places, New Names." Most of the 76 name changes are official, although a few are winding their way through the process.

It was a colorful and emotional ceremony with speeches that brought some to tears.

The loud, rhythmic beats from an Indian drum circle punctuated parts of the ceremony. Those who worked on the project were given braids of sweet grass, partly covered with a bright red cloth. Afterward, the crowd enjoyed fry bread and honey.

"This law will go a long way in healing these past wrongs," said Sen. Carol Juneau, D-Browning, who as a state representative sponsored the 1999 law. "With these name changes, we've made Montana a better place."

The Legislature didn't fund the effort, Juneau said, so the people who served on the panel did so at their own expense. She figured it would take just a couple of years, but it wound up taking 10 years to work with tribal governments and national, state and local governments. In addition, the group found far more names that needed to be changed than it anticipated.

The first name change occurred in the Helena area, Juneau said. The Wakina Sky Learning Group proposed renaming Squaw Gulch as Wakina Sky Gulch. Wakina means "red sky in the morning."

She said a federal law is needed to remove these names across the country.

Senate Minority Leader Carol Williams, D-Missoula, praised Juneau's role and said something should be named after the Browning senator. The two women, then representatives, worked on the bill in 1999.

"We wouldn't be here without Carol Juneau," Williams said. "She was our teacher, our mentor, our nag (when necessary)."

Rep. Diane Sands, D-Missoula, said the old saying, "Sticks and stones may break my bones, but words will never hurt me," is not true.

"Words do have meaning, and words do have pain," said Sands, who introduced the first bill in 1997 but failed to pass it.



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JOB OPPORTUNITIES

COURTESY OF THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS & STATE-TRIBAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

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COPS Hiring Recovery Program (CHRP)

The Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS Office) is pleased to announce the availability of funding under the COPS Hiring Recovery Program (CHRP). The COPS Office will receive the funds from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 to address the personnel needs of state, local, and tribal law enforcement.

Applications for CHRP grants will be accepted online via the COPS Office web site at www.cops.usdoj.gov beginning March 16, 2009 - April 14, 2009.

Economic Development Specialist

Triangle Communications seeks to fill a new position for a full-time Economic Development Specialist.

A typical way to obtain the knowledge, skills and abilities would be: BA/BS in Business Administration, Community Development, Public Relations, or a related field. Two years of job related experience is preferred. Certification in Economic Development, Grant Writing, Community Development or Planning is desired. Must hold and maintain a current MT Driver's license and maintain an insurable driving record.

Must reside in the Triangle Communications service area with reporting requirements to corporate headquarters in Havre, MT.

Position opened until filled. Review of applications begins 3/27/09. **Obtain application and full job description with requirements at www.itsTriangle.com.** Requires resume & application submitted in one of the following ways: email to jobs@itsTriangle.com; deliver to our headquarters at 2121 Hwy 2 NW in Havre, MT; fax to 406-394-7801; or mail to JOBS - PO Box 1140 Havre, MT 59501. For more information call 1-800-332-1201. (EOE)

Montana Arts Council seeks applications for Artist's Innovation Awards

The Montana Arts Council, an agency of state government, announces a new program, the Artist's Innovation Awards, to honor the innovative ideas, practices and contributions of Montana artists. The application process is now open and the deadline is May 1, 2009.

The Artist's Innovation Award is an honorary designation and includes a \$3,000 cash award. Visual artists residing in Montana who show extraordinary innovation and originality in their creative pursuits are eligible to apply for the award.

Up to five visual artists will be selected in the first group of awards. The second group of grants will go to performing artists and literary artists, who will be eligible to apply next year. That deadline has not been set.

This program is administered online, through an electronic submissions system. Full details are at the arts council's website www.art.mt.gov. Artists who wish to apply but do not have access to computers with high-speed connections are encouraged to call Montana Arts Council Grants and Database Director Kristin Han Burgoyne at 406.444.6449 for assistance before April 1, 2009 or email her at khan@mt.gov.

ICCW accepting nominations for 2009 Excellence in Leadership Awards

The Interagency Committee for Change by Women (ICCW) is accepting nominations for the 2009 Excellence in Leadership Award to recognize exemplary leaders in Montana.

Established by the ICCW in 1999, this statewide award honors three individuals for exemplary leadership and achievements or for outstanding efforts to assist women to excel in the workplace. Awards are presented in three categories: A Person in State Government, A Person in the Public Sector, and A Person in the Private Sector. Nominations must be post-marked no later than **April 3, 2009**.

Nomination packets are available at <http://www.mdt.mt.gov/iccw/>. You can also request nomination packets by emailing Billie Rusek at brusek@mt.gov. **For more information, contact:** Betty Huckins at 406.444.3648 or Sarah Pallis at 406.444.5829.

Wakina Sky Learning Circle seeks board members

The **Wakina Sky Learning Circle Program** in Helena will have board member openings soon. The Wakina Sky Learning Circle is an afterschool cultural and education program for Helena area Native Youth. The program is held at the Helena Indian Alliance. If you or someone you know might be interested in joining the board in overseeing the Wakina Sky cultural and education programs, please contact Marilyn Richardson at either work or home.

Work: (406) 449-2006, mrichardson@indianlaw.org or
Home: (406) 449-8644, bjornone@msn.com



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GRANTS

COURTESY OF THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS & STATE-TRIBAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

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New OVW Recover Act Solicitations Released

[OVW Recovery Act Grants to Indian Tribal Governments Program Solicitation](#)

The [Grants to Indian Tribal Governments Program](#) (Tribal Governments Program) was created in Title IX of the Violence Against Women Act of 2005. The Tribal Governments Program is designed to fulfill the three goals of Title IX: (1) to decrease the number of violent crimes committed against Indian women; (2) to help Indian tribes use their independent authority to respond to crimes of violence against Indian women; and (3) to make sure that people who commit violent crimes against Indian women are held responsible for their actions.

Eligible applicants include federally recognized Indian Tribes, their authorized designee, or a consortium consisting of two or more federally recognized Tribes

Letters of intent to apply should be submitted by **March 23, 2009**. All applicants should register online with the Grants Management System by **March 26, 2009**. All applications are due by 8:00 p.m. e.t. on **April 9, 2009**.

[FAQs: OVW Recovery Act Grants to Indian Tribal Governments Program](#)

[OVW Recovery Act Tribal Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Coalitions Program Solicitation](#)

The Recovery Act [Tribal Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Coalitions Program](#) (Recovery Act Tribal Coalitions Program) provides much needed resources for organizing and supporting efforts to end violence against Indian women. These coalitions can help meet the goals of the Recovery Act through the technical assistance they provide to member programs.

All applicants should register online with GMS by **March 25, 2009**. All applications are due by 8:00 p.m. e.t. on **April 8, 2009**.

Eligible applicants are established nonprofit, nongovernmental tribal coalitions addressing domestic violence and/or sexual assault against American Indian and Alaska Native women.

****Additional Information****

Applications for OVW Recovery Act programs, including supporting documentation, must be submitted through OJP's online Grants Management System (GMS). To access the system, go to <https://grants.ojp.usdoj.gov>.

Please visit OVW's Recovery Act website for additional requirements: www.ovw.usdoj.gov/recovery-applicants.htm.

Center for Native Health Partnerships Grant Applications

The Mission of the CNHP is to reduce health disparities of Native Americans in Montana through community-based health projects that are conducted in partnership between community members and health researchers.

We are very pleased to announce our 2009-2010 Planning Grant and Pilot Grant Request for Proposals. For more information and to obtain application materials, please contact please contact **Vickie LaFromboise**, Research Scientist, (406) 994-3841, victoria.lafromboise@montana.edu or **Deb LaVeaux**, Program Coordinator, (406) 994-4690, dmlaveaux@montana.edu